

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Division of Special Education



Report on First Steps Children Identified through the Newborn
Hearing Screening Program having Permanent Hearing Loss

December 2009

Under the Newborn Hearing Screening law, Section 191.931 RSMo, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall “monitor the delivery of early intervention services to those infants identified by the newborn hearing screening program and report annually to the department of health.” Eligible infants and toddlers are served by the Missouri First Steps Program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

This report is divided into two sections as follows:

1. Analysis of the number of children enrolled in First Steps and identified through the newborn hearing screening program during calendar year 2008.
2. Early intervention services provided to Newborn Hearing Screening children in the First Steps Program under an Individualized Family Services Plans (IFSP).

Previous versions of this report included all levels of hearing loss identified through the Newborn Hearing Screening Program. Beginning with 2007, only children with permanent hearing loss and undetermined type of hearing loss are included in this report.

Personally identifiable information has been redacted pursuant to provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), incorporated by reference in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Section One: Children Identified by the Newborn Hearing Screening program and enrolled in the First Steps program

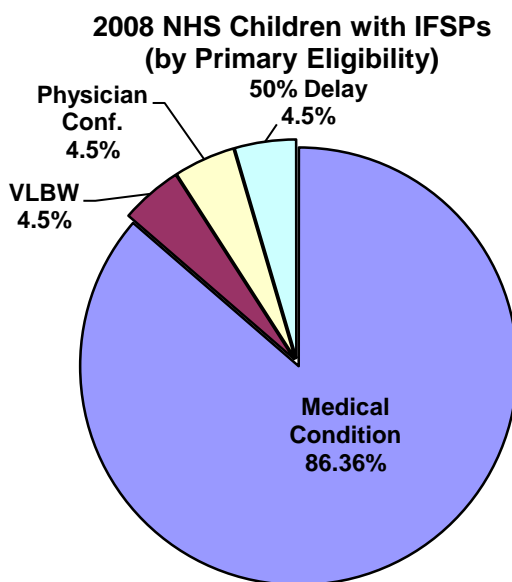
As of December 8, 2009, 60 children born in 2008 were identified with permanent hearing loss and 68 with an undetermined type of hearing loss by the Department of Health (DHSS) for a total of 128 children. Of the 128 children on the Hearing Screening list and born in 2008, 53 were found in the First Steps database (41.4%); 44 had been determined eligible for First Steps services based on one of Missouri’s First Steps program eligibility criteria (50% delay in one developmental domain, medical condition associated with mental retardation/developmental delay, physician confirmation of other condition associated with mental retardation/developmental delay, or very low birth weight) and received services through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Thirty-nine children had active IFSPs as of December 8, 2009. It is important to note that the 128 children include those who have received incomplete results through testing and those who have unknown types of loss

<u>2008 Newborn Hearing Screening List (Permanent and Undetermined Type)</u>	
	128 total children
	53 in First Steps Database
	44 reached IFSP
	3 withdrawn by parent/guardian
	2 moved out of state
	39 active IFSPs

based on what has been reported to the DHSS. Children who are determined to be suffering from middle ear pathology (e.g., fluid in the middle ear from colds, ear infections) and who do not have a permanent hearing loss could be removed from the list at a later date based on updates received from audiologists.

Of the 128 children on the 2008 list, 31 were deemed to have sensorineural hearing loss. Twenty-nine of these (93.5%) were referred to First Steps, and 25 were found eligible (eligibility rate: 86.2%).

2008 NHS Children by Degree of Hearing Loss and First Steps Status					
<i>Type of Loss</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Referred to FS</i>	<i>% Referred</i>	<i>Received IFSP</i>	<i>Eligibility %</i>
Sensorineural	31	29	93.5%	25	86.2%
Auditory Neuropathy	3	3	100.0%	3	100.0%
Mixed	5	4	80.0%	4	100.0%
Permanent Conductive	2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Incomplete Testing and/or Unknown Type	87	17	19.5%	12	70.6%
Total	128	53	41.4%	44	83.0%



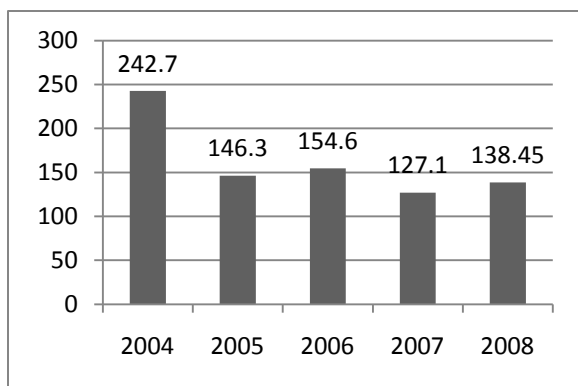
Of 2008's 44 First Steps eligible children, 38 (86.36%) were determined eligible based on Medical Condition associated with MR/DD, 2 (4.55%) based on Very Low Birth Weight, 2 (4.55%) based on 50% delay in one developmental domain, and 2 (4.55%) due to Physician Confirmation of other condition associated with MR/DD.

The 44 First Steps eligible children born in 2008 had the following primary diagnoses, 32 of which (72.7%) are related to hearing loss (those related to hearing loss are in boldface below).

- **Hearing Loss – 15**
- **Mixed Conductive and Sensorineural Hearing Loss - 1**
- **Sensorineural Hearing Loss – 16**
- Cleft Palate and/or Cleft Lip – 1
- Disorders Relating to Extreme Immaturity of Infant or Low Birth Weight Status – 2
- Down's Syndrome –2
- Multiple Congenital Anomalies, so described – 1
- Microcephalus – 2
- Other and Ill-Defined Perinatal Conditions – 2
- Unspecified Delay in Development –2

Below is a chart outlining First Steps referral sources. Of the 53 NHS children born in 2008 and referred to First Steps, data shows that the most common primary referral sources for children with hearing concerns in the First Steps system have been the Parent (20.8%), Hospital (20.8%), and Other Health Care Provider (18.9%).

First Steps Referral Sources for NHS Children by Year of Birth	
<i>Referral Source</i>	<i>2008</i>
Parent	11
Hospital (other than NICU)	11
Other Health Care Provider	10
Dept. of Health and Senior Services – DHSS	8
NICU	6
Physician (including Psych.)	5
Missouri School for the Deaf – MSD	1
Public Health Facilities/Providers	1
Total	53



The National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) goal regarding First Steps is to have infants enrolled in the First Steps program by 6 months of age (approximately 180 days). The table above to the left shows the average age at first referral by birth year.

Section Two: Early Intervention Services

IDEA and the Missouri state regulations require that First Steps funds may only be used for Early Intervention services that an eligible child needs but is not currently entitled to under any other Federal, State, local or private source. Services and assistive technology reported in this section reflect only those services paid for with Part C funds.

As of December 8, 2009, there were 205 active authorizations for NHS children in First Steps. Of these authorizations, the top three categories were:

- 1) Audiology with 29.8% (61 authorizations);
- 2) Special Instruction with 28.3% (58 authorizations);
- 3) Speech Language Pathology with 13.7% (28 authorizations).

Service Type	AT Service	Consultation, Facilitation with Others	Direct Child Service	Evaluation, Assessment	Family Education, Training, Support	Evoked otoacoustic	Tympanometry (impedance testing)	Visual Reinforcement Audiometric	Visual Reinforcement Audiometric	Total	% of Total Auths
Assistive Technology			16							16	7.8%
Audiology	11	7		2		10	11	10	10	61	29.8%
Nutrition Services		2	2							4	2.0%
Occupational Therapy		7	9	1						17	8.2%
Physical Therapy		8	13							21	10.2%
Special Instruction		15	39		4					58	28.3%
Speech Language Pathology		7	19	2						28	13.7%
Grand Total	11	46	98	5	4	10	11	10	10	205	100%